

We claim:

1. A peptide of the formula:  $R^1 - X^1 - X^2 - R^2$   
wherein  $X^1$  is an aromatic amino acid residue;  
5  $X^2$  is any amino acid residue;  
 $R^1$  is  $NH_2$  - or an amino acid sequence  $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$   
wherein  $X^3$  is an aliphatic amino acid residue having  
a side chain hydroxyl group and  $X^4$  and  $X^5$  are the same or  
10 different and are any amino acid residue and wherein  $R^2$  is  
a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the  
same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues.
2. The peptide of claim 1  
15 wherein  $X^1$  is Phe;  
 $X^2$  is Glu or Ala;  
 $R^2$  is Gly-Gly;  
 $R^1$  is  $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$  wherein  
 $X^3$  is Thr,  
20  $X^4$  is Asp or Ala and  
 $X^5$  is Ile or Ala.
3. The peptide of claim 1  
wherein  $R^1$  is  $NH_2$  -;  
 $X^1$  is an aromatic amino acid;  
25  $X^2$  is Glu or Ala and  
 $R^2$  is Gly, Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly or  
sarcosine.
4. The peptide of claim 3  
30 wherein  $X^1$  is Phe and  $X^2$  is Glu.
5. The peptide of claim 2 having an amino acid sequence  
selected from the group  
consisting of:  
35 (a) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);  
(b) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);  
(c) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4);  
and

41

(d) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6).

6. The peptide of claim 3 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group

consisting of:

- 5 (a) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:9);  
(b) Phe-Glu-Gly; and  
(c) Phe-Glu-Sarcosine.

7. The peptide of claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  is a sequence of 1  
10 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different  
and are selected from the group consisting of glycine,  
sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

8. The peptide of claim 3 wherein  $R^2$  is a sequence of 1  
15 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different  
and are selected from the group consisting of glycine,  
sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

9. The peptide of any of claims 1 to 8 wherein at least  
20 one amino acid is a D amino acid.

10. The peptide of claim 4 or 6 wherein Phe and Glu are  
D amino acids.

25 11. A peptide having the amino acid sequence  
Ser-Gly-Glu-Gly-Val-Arg (Sequence ID NO:1).

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide of  
any of claims 1 to 11 and a pharmaceutically  
30 acceptable carrier.

13. A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced  
hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the  
mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims  
35 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11 or of an effective fragment or  
derivative of said peptide.

14. A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic

hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 10, or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

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15. A method of reducing or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 10 or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to the mammal.

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16. A method of reducing or preventing an endotoxic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to the mammal.

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17. A method for treating an inflammatory disorder in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 10 or of an effective fragment or derivative of the peptide to the mammal.

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18. The method of claim 17 wherein the inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of a rheumatic disorder, inflammatory bowel disease, post-ischemic inflammation or systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

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19. An antibody which specifically recognises an epitope of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 11.

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20. A method of determining the peptide SGP-T or the peptide SGPS in a biological fluid comprising obtaining a sample of the biological fluid and determining the peptide in the fluid by immunoassay employing an antibody of claim 19.

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